

I claim:

1. A raster generation system for a printing machine with an image-setting unit, comprising:

at least one raster processor for generating raster data from raw image data; and

a memory for storing the raster data, said memory formed by a raster memory with random access;

said raster processor storing the raster data column by column in said raster memory.

2. The raster generation system according to claim 1, comprising a first plug-in interface board, said raster memory and said raster processor disposed on said first plug-in interface board.

3. The raster generation system according to claim 2, comprising:

an image-setting unit; and

a DMA controller for controlling a transfer of the raster data from said raster memory to said image-setting unit.

4. The raster generation system according to claim 1,
comprising:

an image-setting unit; and

a DMA controller for controlling a transfer of the raster data
from said raster memory to said image-setting unit.

5. The raster generation system according to claim 4,
comprising:

a buffer memory;

said DMA controller providing an output;

said buffer memory buffering said output of said DMA
controller.

6. The raster generation system according to claim 4,
comprising a second plug-in interface board, said DMA
controller and said buffer memory disposed on said second
plug-in interface board.

7. A method of processing raster data for an image-setting
unit of a printing machine, which comprises:

generating raster data line by line from raw image data;

storing the raster data column by column in a raster memory with random access; and

reading out the raster data column by column into an image-setting unit.

8. The method according to claim 7, which comprises:

using a DMA controller to control the step of reading out the raster data; and

buffering the raster data that has been read out in a buffer memory.